

5-8-1997

[Signed notice from students about the President's House walk-in, May 8, 1997]

[Unknown]

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.sl.c.edu/protest>

Recommended Citation

[Unknown], "[Signed notice from students about the President's House walk-in, May 8, 1997]" (1997). *Complete protest and activism collection online*, Sarah Lawrence College Archives. 84.
<https://digitalcommons.sl.c.edu/protest/84>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Protest and Activism Collection at DigitalCommons@SarahLawrence. It has been accepted for inclusion in Complete protest and activism collection online by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@SarahLawrence. For more information, please contact alester@sarahlawrence.edu.

[1997]

"IF THERE IS NO STRUGGLE, THERE IS NO PROGRESS."

On April 18, Sarah Lawrence published a draft of its Strategic Plan designed to "Sustain Our Legacy" and "Create Our Future." This plan failed to commit in any meaningful way to race and class diversity in carrying the college into the Twenty-First Century. In the following weeks, [REDACTED], professor [REDACTED], wrote a letter to faculty announcing his plan to resign from General Committee citing a "crisis of diversity" in the college. This same week Student Senate had its annual meeting with some administration and faculty, held in the President's house. Senate had voted previously that the meeting would focus on "racial and socio-economic diversity at Sarah Lawrence College."

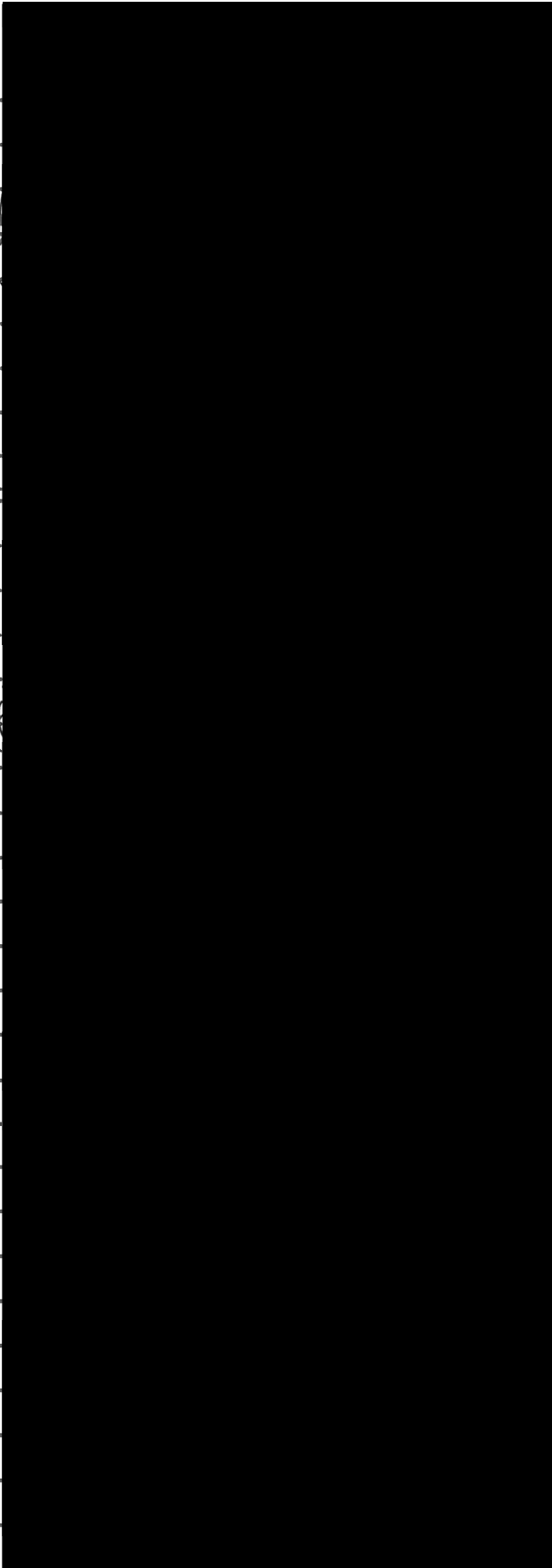
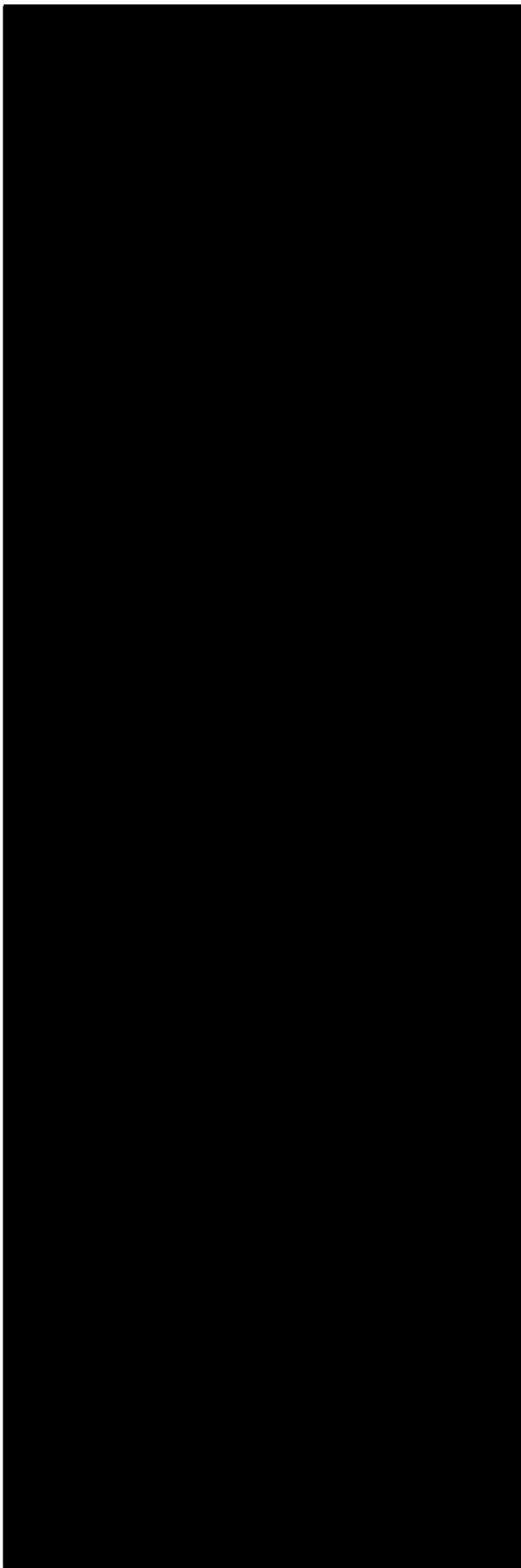
Students and some senators felt that the crisis in diversity at SLC was too great to be resolved in a meeting that would simply be "business as usual." To this end, a coalition of students and senators organized a walk-in to demand that greater commitment to diversity be recognized in the college's vision, especially as it is embodied in the Strategic Plan. Over seventy students took part in this walk-in to demonstrate the intensity of their feelings about diversity. When Alice, Barbara, and Marilyn refused to sign on to the student demand as a show of their own personal commitment, these students along with a majority of senators chose to leave.

* It is because of these events, culminating in the walk-in, that several important steps have been taken. After the vast majority of students left the meeting, the faculty and administration present rewrote and signed the demand for a committee to address racial and economic diversity within the college's Strategic Plan. This committee is in the process of being formed through elections and will begin work immediately.

More importantly, the next morning at the General Committee meeting, four tenure track positions were established for faculty of color.

These victories represent the most significant commitment to diversity that Sarah Lawrence has made since the sit-in of 1989. While these victories represent important first steps, we must commit ourselves to continue this struggle. By strengthening student senate and the various student organizations on campus, we can ensure that the momentum which has been created will not be lost.

**"POWER CONCEDES NOTHING WITHOUT A
DEMAND. IT NEVER DID AND NEVER
WILL."--Frederick Douglass**



7.